

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



WORSHIP ✦ SHARE ✦ GROW ✦ SERVE



WELCOME, Visitors and Guests!
We pray for God's blessing for us all
as we worship together today.
Please silence your cell phones
and pass the peace of Christ.

†Please rise in body or spirit.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Hear O Israel! I am calling! Are you listening?

People: We are here and we are ready.

Leader: Beloved Children. Who do you say that I am?

**People: You are our rock and our redeemer. Our trust is in you. Our hearts,
minds, and souls belong to you!**

We give thanks with our whole hearts for your steadfast love!

†OPENING SONG "He Is Exalted"

He is Exalted the King is Exalted on High; I will praise Him.

He is exalted forever exalted and I will praise his name!

He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign; heaven and earth
rejoice in his Holy name. He is exalted the King is exalted on high.

WE COME BEFORE GOD TO CONFESS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

You call to us, Lord. But we struggle to listen. As we come before you with our hearts
open, quiet the noise of the world, of our pressing thoughts and fears, so that we
may hear your Spirit fully.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of truth, like a moth that gnaws at wool, our brokenness eats away at our souls. We allow the cacophony of greed, selfishness, apathy, and ignorance to drown out your voice as you call us to see the suffering in our world and respond to the needs of your children. In our busy lives, we convince ourselves that there is no time to help, no space for prayer and no need for justice. Forgive us. Remind us that only when we slow down and breathe deeply of your Holy Spirit and the Holy Word can our ears hear your voice. Inspire us to greater love for you and for one another. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The prophet Isaiah wrote, “Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me”. Jesus promised, “I will give you the keys to the kingdom”.

We know love and forgiveness because God first loved us and has been calling out to us forever, “You are my beloved”! May we respond to such abundant grace with deep gratitude for God’s unending forgiveness.

All: God loves me, heals me, strengths me and calls me by name. Through Jesus I am made whole! Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE

“Holy Spirit, breathe on me”

Holy Spirit, let me see,
all the things you are,
all the things you want me to be,
Holy Spirit breathe on me.

By Jeff Nelson and Eddie Smith.

WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD

MESSAGE FOR YOUTH

Jesus Loves Me

NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Lay Reader

This Week at Willow Grove

- *Join us for our weekly prayer meeting! The Zoom link is available on the church website.*

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm: Led by Judy and Paul.

Let's come together in prayer and seek the presence of God as we lift up our hearts and intercede for one another. Everyone is welcome!

What's Ahead at Willow Grove

- *If anyone has pastoral care needs during Rev. Park's August vacation, please speak with Judy Murphy, congregational life Elder.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of light, your wisdom is right here, speaking truth to us in love. We pray for you to open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts so we may drink in all that you have for us to learn today.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:9-15; Luke 11:1-4; 9-13.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Teach Us to Pray

Dr. Gayle W. Griffin

†SONG OF RESPONSE

#401 What A Friend We Have In Jesus

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

OFFERING

[Now let us bring our gifts to God through our offering.

Please stand or sit as the Spirit leads and join us as we sing our song of thanks.]

†RESPONSE

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. *Repeat*

And now, let the weak say I am strong,

Let the poor say I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us. *Repeat*

Give thanks.

Words and Music: Henry Smith

†SONG OF DEPARTURE

“We Will Feast In The House Of Zion”

BENEDICTION

THE DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

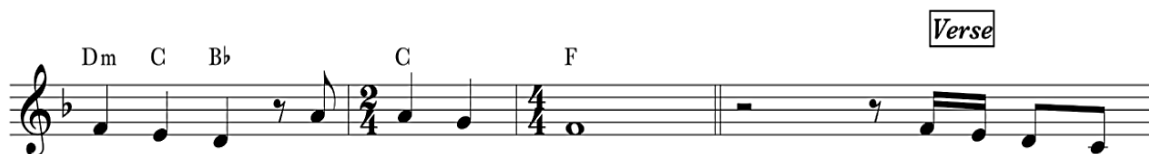
“We Will Feast In The House Of Zion”



We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our



hearts re - stored. He has done great things. we will say to - ge - ther



We will feast and weep no more.

1. We will not be
2. In the dark of
3. Ev - ery vow we've



burned by the fire, He is the Lord our God we are not con -
 night be - fore the dawn my soul be not a - fraid for the pro - mised
 bro - ken and be - trayed You are the faith ful one and from the



sumed by the flood Up - held, pro - tect - ed, ga - thered up
 mor - ning o how long O God of Ja - cob be — my strength.
 gar - den to the grave Bind us to - ge - ther bring — sha - lom

Prayers

Each week as we pray together, we pray for people whose names and stories we may not know. Yet we faithfully pray for them as we know God is aware of each and every need.

*Grateful prayers for the continued healing of
Mital, Ed, and Frank*

*Healing prayers for
Andy, August, Sandra, Irany, Olivia, Ed, Sue,
Gisela and Bonnie*

Guest Preacher

Dr. Gayle Griffin

Today's Worship Assistants

Edwin Velez – Lay Reader

Linda DiDario – Greeter

We thank all our volunteers who make our service welcoming.

Paul DiDario – Director of Music and Pianist

Rebecca Pacella – Song Leader

Doris Dias – Secretary

Office hours Mon-Thu 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Paul Whitehurst – Custodian

Rev. Se Hyuk Park – Pastor

Rev Park's regular office hours are:

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wed. and 12-3 p.m. on Thu.

Appointments during this time or at another time can be scheduled by emailing him at pastor@willowgrovechurch.org or contacting the church office

Gayle Griffin, Ph.D.

Gayle W. Griffin has been a member of Roseville Presbyterian Church, Newark, New Jersey, for more than 22 years, and is an Elder there. Prior to moving to New Jersey, she was a member of Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, for 19 years. There, she was a Deacon for 7 years, including 5 years as Moderator of the Deacon Board, and 10 years as an Elder. She worked in several ministries in Grace Church. She also served as secretary of the church's non-profit foundation, Schenley Heights Community Development Corporation. At Roseville, she teaches the adult women's Sunday School Class and chairs the Worship and Music Committee, is an Elder, and serves on the Roseville Church non-profit foundation, Roseville Outreach Community Corporation. She has served on numerous church and presbytery committees and is currently serving on the Vision Board for the newly organized Presbytery of North East NJ.

In her professional life, Dr. Griffin is retired from her roles as Assistant Superintendent in Newark Public Schools and the East Orange School District. She served on the *Newark Public Library* Board of Trustees for 14 years. She has been an Executive School Performance Coach and served as Executive Director of the NJ Department of Education's Regional Achievement Center in Essex and Hudson County. She is currently a faculty member at Seton Hall University's Urban School Transformation, serving as an educational consultant in school districts in New Jersey.

Dr. Griffin is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at age 17 to attend college. She graduated from Chatham College, where she received her B.A. degree, and the University of Pittsburgh, where she received her M.Ed. and Ph.D. In Pittsburgh, she was a teacher and principal. She met and married her husband, who was a native of western Pennsylvania. She is a widow and the mother of one daughter, Dr. Flo Jaune Griffin-Cofer, an epidemiologist, who lives in Sacramento, CA.

More importantly, though, she is a born-again Christian. Mrs. Griffin believes, "A woman makes her plans, but the Lord orders her steps." Through prayer, this proverb has guided her daily actions.



Willow Tree
CHILDREN'S CHORUS

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Where Young Voices Grow.

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required



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families



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make new friends, **build** confidence,
and **experience** the joy of making music together!

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offered at **low-cost**
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Willow Grove
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Willow Grove
Presbyterian
Church

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains, NJ,
is committed to nurturing young musicians and
creating opportunities for children to grow through
music, friendship, and community.



Willow Grove Mission Statement

Reflecting God's love, we love and serve all neighbors

**Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains NJ 07076
908-232-5678 office@willowgrovechurch.org
willowgrovechurch.org**

*Willow Grove Presbyterian Church holds CCLI license #3219335
Willow Grove Presbyterian Church holds One License Permission #A-000000*

Cover Design by Frank Thorne

We'd Love to Connect

Thanks for worshiping with us today! Scan the QR code to complete our Connection Card so we can get to know you, share what's happening at the church, and support you however we can.

